

LANCASTER  
*on the*  
NASHUA

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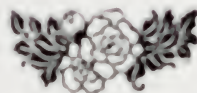




# Lancaster on the Nashua

## Picturesque and Historical

Prepared by W. A. EMERSON      Assisted by J. C. L. CLARK



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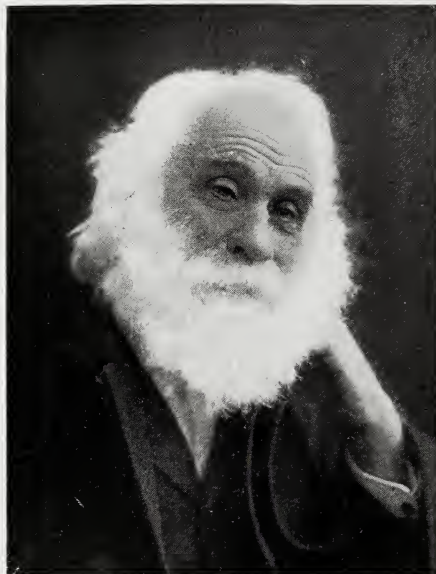
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REV. NATHANIEL THAYER, D. D.



REV. GEORGE MURILLO BARTOL, D. D.

It is now two hundred and fifty years since Master Joseph Rowlandson began his ministrations in the Nashua valley, and there have been but eight incumbents of the church of which he was the first pastor, two of whom were slain, their joint service amounting to but twelve years. With the exception of Dr. Sears, who was obliged by failing health to seek rest from the cares of so large a parish, no minister of the church has asked or received dismissal. Dr. Bartol, the present minister, is now serving in the fifty-eighth year of his pastorate. The names of the eight ministers and the time of service of each is as follows: Joseph Rowlandson, 1654-1675; John Whiting, 1690-1697; Andrew Gardner, 1701-1704; John Prentice, 1708-1748; Timothy Harrington, 1748-1795; Nathaniel Thayer, D. D., 1793-1840; Edward Hamilton Sears, D. D., 1840-1847; George M. Bartol, D. D., 1847—.



*Interior Fifth Meeting-house*

The "Old Burying Field." East of the "Middle Cemetery," across the railway. It occupies a long, narrow knoll, mentioned first in 1658 as "Burying Place Hill," and probably set apart for its purpose in 1653, it being close by the site of the first meeting-house. The earliest stones in this cemetery are rude slabs of granite, and the brief inscriptions, now almost illegible, seem to have been incised by an ordinary blacksmith's chisel in unskilled hands. It will be noticed that over the grave of John Prescott, as well as over the other ancient graves about it, there is laid a large, flat slab of stone, supposed to have been so placed to guard against its being disturbed by wolves. The graves of four of the earlier ministers, Whiting, Gardner, Prentice and Harrington, are grouped together in this yard. Doubtless, this field contains many unmarked graves of former dwellers in the town. Why it has been absurdly called the "Old Indian Cemetery" it is hard to see, except that it was in use during the period of Indian depredations.

This picture was taken on the occasion of the first family reunion of the descendants of Jonas and Lydia (Prescott) Fairbanks. Under the direction of Hon. Henry S. Nourse, "Historian of the Nashua Valley," each grave was pointed out and the story of the occupant was told.



The Grave of John Prescott, the Founder of Lancaster. Near this ancient headstone in the Old Burying Field a substantial slate tablet has recently been placed by a lineal descendant, bearing an inscription prepared by the late Senator George F. Hoar.

HERE  
WITH HIS CHILDREN ABOUT HIM LIES  
JOHN PRESCOTT  
FOUNDER OF LANCASTER AND FIRST SETTLER  
OF WORCESTER COUNTY  
BORN AT STANDISH, LANCASHIRE, ENGLAND  
DIED AT LANCASTER, MASSACHUSETTS, DECEMBER, 1681.  
INSPIRED BY THE LOVE OF LIBERTY AND THE FEAR OF GOD  
THIS STOUT-HEARTED PIONEER  
FORSAKING THE PLEASANT VALES OF ENGLAND  
TOOK UP HIS ABODE IN THE UNBROKEN FOREST  
AND ENCOUNTERED WILD BEAST AND SAVAGE  
TO SECURE FREEDOM  
FOR HIMSELF AND HIS POSTERITY.  
HIS FAITH AND VIRTUES  
HAVE BEEN INHERITED BY MANY DESCENDANTS  
WHO IN EVERY GENERATION HAVE WELL SERVED THE STATE  
IN WAR, IN LITERATURE, AT THE BAR, IN THE PULPIT, IN PUBLIC LIFE,  
AND IN CHRISTIAN HOMES.

Grave of Jonathan Fairbanks and His Daughter Grace. Jonas Fairbanks of Dedham, and Lydia, the youngest daughter of John Prescott, were the first couple married within the limits of Lancaster. Jonas and his son, Joshua Fairbanks, were killed by the Indians in the massacre of 1676. Another son, Jonathan, with his daughter Grace, was killed in the Indian massacre of 1697. His wife was taken captive and carried to Canada, but was afterwards rescued or ransomed by the government.



Woods on the Thayer Estate, midway between the "Old Burying Field" and the "Middle Cemetery." On the highest ground in the "Middle Cemetery," just beyond the hedge and pine tree which appear to the extreme right and above the railroad in the picture, is the site of the first and second meeting-houses, both burned by the Indians, 1676 and 1704.



The Site of the Third Meeting-House, on the knoll at the right and opposite the "Old Common" Cemetery. Built in 1706 on land donated by John Houghton. When the fourth meeting-house was built at Lancaster Center this church building was torn down and the material divided up and used towards the construction of school-houses.

The "Old Common" Cemetery was located on a lot given by the second Thomas Wilder about the time the meeting-house was built opposite, probably in 1705.



In Memory of  
DAVID STEUART ROBERTSON,  
Second son of the late John Robertson, Esq.,  
of Foveran House, Aberdeenshire.  
Born in Scotland,  
Educated at Rugby, in England,  
And at Giessen, in Germany,  
In which country, as well as in Sicily,  
He had spent several years.  
At the age of twenty-three  
He came to America.  
Having, after various experience of the Old World,  
Acquired an ardent love for the New,  
He settled in this town of Lancaster,  
And became a citizen of the United States.  
Deceased on the twenty-first of July,  
A. D. MDCCCXLIX.  
In the thirtieth year of his age.

Here Steuart sleeps—and should some brother Scot,  
Wander this way, and pause upon the spot.  
He need not ask, now life's poor show is o'er,  
What arms he carried, or what plaid he wore;  
So small the value of illustrious birth,  
Brought to this solemn, last assay of earth:  
Yet unproved, his epitaph may say,  
A royal soul was wrapt in Steuart's clay,  
And generous actions consecrate his mound,  
More than all titles, though of kingly sound.

This epitaph was written by Dr. Thomas W. Parsons, the poet and translator of Dante. He was an intimate friend of Dr. Robertson, and a frequent visitor at his Lancaster home. The remains of the lady whom Dr. Robertson was to marry, and who long survived him, rest in the same lot.



The Site of the Fourth Meeting House, about where Mrs. Solon Wilder's house now is, but nearer the road. The residence appears through the trees, a little to the left of the center of the picture.

This meeting-house was built about 1743, and after the erection of the present fifth meeting-house was used as a town house. In 1823 a new town house was built near the site of the other, most of the available material from the old being used in its construction. Here it remained until the present town hall was built in 1848, when it was finally sold and moved to its present location near the depot.



**The Site of the Rowlandson Garrison**, scene of the chief massacre at the destruction of Lancaster, February 10, 1676. Opposite the Middle Cemetery, near the white pine tree on the slope, on the grounds of Nathaniel Thayer. For about two hours the savages beset this garrison in overwhelming numbers, pouring bullets upon it "like hail." Unfortunately there was no stockade about the house and its rear flanker was unfinished and useless. A cart loaded with flax and hemp from the barn was pushed up against a lean-to in the rear and fired, and soon the whole building was in flames and the inmates of the burning house had to choose between death by fire or the merciless rage of the yelling demons that stood in wait for them without. Ephraim Roper burst through the horde of savages and escaped, the other eleven men were killed, and the women and children that survived were dragged away captive. A house was afterwards built by Philip Goss on the same site as the garrison. This was one of the four dwellings destroyed by the French and Indians in the summer of 1704. At this time the meeting-house near by was also burned. Many years after, while plowing in this field, the doorstep and hearthstone of the Goss house were uncovered, and the pine tree which appears in the picture was planted to mark the location of the Rowlandson garrison.



**The Rowlandson Boulder.** This granite boulder, rent in twain and half buried, on the summit of George Hill, marks the place where Mrs. Mary Rowlandson, wife of the minister of Lancaster, spent the first night of her captivity surrounded by merciless savages, exulting in their success and celebrating by a fiendish carousal the terrible massacre which they had inflicted upon the innocent people of Lancaster. After a captivity of three or four months, during which she suffered extremely from cold, hunger and ill-usage, she was redeemed and restored to her husband. Her youngest child died while among the savages, and her son and daughter were restored soon after her return. We gather our knowledge of the massacre and captivity mostly from Mrs. Rowlandson's inimitable "Removes," published in 1682, afterwards going through many editions. The earlier extant edition was very appropriately reproduced on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the incorporation of the town.



The Site of the Indian Trucking House, on the eastern slope of George Hill, now "Maplehurst" Farm. The trucking house was the first building erected by white men in the Nashua valley, and was the meeting place of several Indian tribes, it being the extreme western advance of the white men in Massachusetts. Here for eight or nine years lived John Prescott, and many other settlers gathered around him. The Ephraim Roper garrison was on the hillside, a little to the north and just above the school-house. On the summit of George Hill, which appears in the background, is the spot where Mrs. Rowlandson is known to have spent the first night of her captivity. It is in the rocks of this hill that some of the finest specimens of chialstolite abound, in which the "cross" always seen in such specimens is either white or yellowish brown, inclining to red.



The Site of the Simon Willard or Cyprian Stevens Garrison, successfully defended February 10, 1676. In the garden of the place formerly owned by the late Caleb T. Symmes, now the residence of Edward C. Hawkins, near the well, a short distance to the left of the residence, and near the grape arbor in the picture. This garrison was a substantial structure, probably of brick or stone, and surrounded by a stockade, it being the chief garrison and military headquarters. Cyprian Stevens in 1671 married Mary, daughter of Major Simon Willard, and the next year came into possession of the property, his father-in-law having removed to Groton. The feathered elm which stands on the corner at the right in the picture is one of the largest of its kind, measuring eighteen feet in circumference five feet from the base.



**Main Street, Lancaster Center.** Lancaster Inn, at the right, stands on land which was selected by John Prescott as his first house lot in Lancaster, but which he afterward sold to Ralph Houghton, and made his home at the Trucking House, on the west side of the river. It is related that Prescott, who had a considerable estate in Watertown, sold it, and packing his household goods upon horses, set out with his family through the wilderness for their new home. At the outset he met with serious misfortune. "He lost a horse and his lading in the Sudbury river, and a week after, his wife and children being upon another horse were hardly saved from drowning."



The Site of the Minister's House, on the lawn of E. V. R. Thayer, about half-way between his mansion and the crossing of the streets.

Here lived in succession Rev. John Whiting, Rev. Andrew Gardner and Rev. John Prentice. The first was slain and scalped by Indians September 11, 1697, who surprised him outside the garrison and attempted to take him captive, but he chose rather to "fight to the last." The second was accidentally shot by a sentry on the night of Thursday, October 26, 1704. Samuel Prescott being the sentinel on duty at the garrison, walking his beat within the stockade, suddenly saw a man "coming down out of the upper flanker," and receiving no reply to his repeated challenge, fired upon him in his surprise, supposing him to be an Indian enemy. "To his own grief and horror, as well as that of the whole community, it was found that he had mortally wounded the minister, who had been up in the watch-tower keeping guard by himself, in distrust of the wakefulness of the sentinels, who had been scouting in the woods all day."



Bird Museum, South Lancaster. This museum, with its magnificent collection of North American birds, is a monument of the public spirit of its owner, John E. Thayer, Esq., and of his industry and knowledge as a collector. In the orchard at the left in the picture, a few rods southwest of this Museum building, and behind the houses of Mrs. Hosmer and Dr. Prince, is the Site of Thomas Sawyer's Garrison and Palisades. This garrison was successfully defended February 10, 1676. In the raid of September 11, 1697, the savages planned to carry it by assault, but as they prepared to rush upon it, Jabez Fairbanks galloped at full speed into the gates, coming from his own house, and the Indians, supposing they were discovered—though such was not the fact—passed by and turned their attack upon those in the fields and defenceless homes. Thomas Sawyer was a blacksmith of Rowley, and married Mary, the daughter of John Prescott.



The "Joslin House" Site. Scene of the massacre of July 18, 1692. Near where Miss Anna H. Whitney now lives. It was here that a small band of Indians surprised the family of Peter Joslin while he was absent in the field, killed Mrs. Sarah Joslin, Mrs. Hannah Whitcomb and three young children, and took away as prisoners Elizabeth Howe, the young sister of Mrs. Joslin, and Peter Joslin, aged about six years. The boy was butchered in the wilderness. Elizabeth, a girl of sixteen, when the Indians approached the house was singing at the spinning wheel, and, tradition says, escaped the fate of her sister because of her captors' admiration for her song. She was ransomed from Canada after four years of captivity.



**The Thayer Parsonage.** Home of Nathaniel Thayer, D. D., sixth minister of Lancaster. Nathaniel Thayer was twenty-four years of age when he began his labors as colleague of Rev. Timothy Harrington. He was the son of Rev. Ebenezer and Martha (Cotton) Thayer. His mother was a lineal descendant of John Cotton, the first minister of Boston. Two years after coming to Lancaster he was married to Sarah Toppan of Hampton, and after the death of his venerable colleague removed to the parsonage and resided there during the remainder of his forty-eight year pastorate. Dr. Thayer has been described by the late Henry S. Nourse as a man "of not over medium height, nor otherwise of rare mould, but his dignified mien and a melodious voice of great compass and flexibility gave impressiveness to his oratory. Because of his power in the pulpit and wisdom in church polity, he was frequently summoned from great distances to aid in ordination and council. To a gravity which might have graced the Puritan clergymen, his maternal ancestors, he joined an affability that showed no discrimination in persons, and made him beloved of children. The day was never too long for his activity. In the summer mornings, by five o'clock, the early travelers saw him tilling his garden by the roadside. In the after part of the day he rode about his extended parish, stopping to greet every one he met with a kindly inquiry, carrying consolation to the sick and sorrowful, help to the destitute, the refreshment of hope to the despondent, cheerfulness and peace to all." While journeying for health and recreation, Dr. Thayer died very suddenly at Rochester, New York, June 23, 1840.



Mansion of the late Nathaniel Thayer, since remodeled and enlarged, and now the residence of his son, Mr. Nathaniel Thayer. The parsonage stood under the elms between the present house and the street, a few feet from the well which appears at the right in the engraving.



*Residence of Mr. Nathaniel Thayer*

The Orthodox Congregational Church, built in 1841, enlarged in 1868. The chapel was built in 1852. The parsonage adjoining in 1902.

The Catholic Church, built in 1873.

The Swedenborgian Chapel, built in 1881.

Residence of Rev. George M. Bartol, D. D. Built by Rev. Amos E. Lawrence, pastor of the Orthodox Congregational Church, afterwards bought and remodeled by Dr. Bartol.



View of George Hill, from the grounds of Nathaniel Thayer. The plan of settlement of the town was in two groups or double ranges of house lots, in sight of each other, but about a mile apart, the north river and its intervalles lying between. But as one bloody raid after another strewed the slope of George Hill with ruins, the fact that in a military sense the east side of the river was much the more secure from surprise and the more defensible, became obvious, and thither the increase in population tended.





*Residence of Mr. John E. Thayer.*



*Residence of Mr. Bayard Thayer*



*Main Street between the Center and South Lancaster.*



*Residence of Mr. August C. E. Thayer.*

The Capt. Samuel Ward Place, South Lancaster. The age of this house cannot be ascertained. It had been built many years when it was renovated and repaired by Capt. Ward upon his removal to Lancaster in 1768. Capt. Samuel Ward was a native of Worcester, and in his boyhood a pupil of John Adams. He entered the army at sixteen and held a commission in the French and Indian war. For fifty-nine years he was a prominent citizen of Lancaster, devoting his time to mercantile pursuits until the last twenty years of his life, which he spent in the care of his ample landed estate. He left his estate to his niece, Dolly Greene, whom he adopted when a little child, his own children dying young. She married the nephew of Mrs. Ward, 'Squire Chandler (as he was always called) of Petersham. They lived in Lancaster after Capt. Ward's death. Madam Chandler survived her husband seventeen years, living to the age of eighty-six. Their daughter, Mrs. Mary G. Ware, is the present owner of this fine old homestead.



The Town-House as completed in 1848 was one story at first. In 1852 the second story was added and used for a school room until the new school building was erected.

The New School Building was completed in 1904.

The "Mansion House" is one of the oldest houses now standing. It was sold to William Greenleaf in 1768 by Aaron Wilder, Jr., having been built several years before by his father, Aaron Wilder, who was a carpenter by trade. The house was used for many years as a boarding school by Mrs. Southwick, Rev. M. C. Stebbins and William A. Kilbourn, A. M.

The Old Town-House Building, opposite the depot at Lancaster Center. It once stood near the residence of Mrs. Solon Wilder, but was finally sold and moved to its present location and transformed into a boot and shoe shop. It is now used as a dwelling, but contains much of the timber and framework of the old fourth meeting-house.



The Vose House was built about the end of the 18th century by Judge Sprague (John Sprague, Esq.), who served the town ten years as representative, two as senator, was sheriff for three years, and for two years was chief justice of the court of common pleas for Worcester county. The last of the family to occupy the house was Judge Sprague's grandson, the late S. J. Sprague Vose.

**The Whiting Place.** Home of Gen. John Whiting, who died in Washington in 1810. He served through the Revolutionary war, was commissioned lieutenant colonel of the Fourth United States Infantry, and held a commission as brigadier general in the militia. He became associate justice of the court of sessions. His daughter, Caroline Lee, as Mrs. Hentz, became a very popular writer of verse and fiction. His son, Henry, brevet brigadier general, U. S. A., published two volumes of poetry and contributed articles to the *North American Review*.



"Good Rest" vacation house for working girls at the Old Common, maintained by Mrs. Nathaniel Thayer. Devoted to its present use since June, 1890.

Built and occupied by Thomas Safford, subsequently passing into the possession of Dr. David Stuart Robertson, and at his death was left to a female friend in Boston—one who might have borne his name if death had not separated them. Dr. Robertson was a scholar, of gentlemanly manners and tastes, and although fitted for society and genial with particular friends, yet led a retired life. It is said that while driving through this section of the country with his friend, Dr. Parsons, he was attracted by the quiet beauty of this neighborhood and decided to make it his place of residence.



The Washburn Place, North Lancaster. Mr. John M. Washburn retired from business in Boston and was a resident of Lancaster from 1838 until his death in 1861. Two of his sons, Edward R. and Francis, rendered distinguished service and lost their lives in the Rebellion. Capt. Edward R. Washburn was brought from the bloody charge at Port Hudson with a shattered thigh, to die at home within a year. Col. Francis Washburn, though constantly in the service, and often employed in difficult and dangerous cavalry duty, escaped injury until the last engagement of the war at High Bridge, Va., where he was mortally wounded while leading a desperate cavalry charge against an overwhelming force of the enemy, April 6, 1865. He was breveted brigadier-general the same day. He was brought from the field of battle and died at the home of his brother, Hon. John D. Washburn, in Worcester, April 22, 1865.



The Carter Mill on the south branch of the Nashua in South Lancaster, where was once the "wading place" of the early settlers. The dam and saw and grist mills at this privilege were built by Sawyer & Wilder in 1805. After them came Bennett and Wilder and others, until it passed into the hands of Samuel Carter. A fulling mill was started in addition to the saw and grist mills. The clothiers and wool carders successively here were Ezekiel Knowlton, Asa Buttrick and Ephraim Fuller. Asahel Tower, Jr., also operated a nail-cutting machine in connection with the saw mill. The Fuller mill was burned about the year 1840. Mr. Fuller never rebuilt, but bought a mill privilege of George Howard, which is now known as Fullerville. Mr. Carter's grist mill was burned a few years later, and he built a shingle and saw mill on a canal about 400 feet distant from the Carter and Fuller mills sites. He also built a large factory and leased it to the Pitts Brothers for the manufacture of cotton cloth, Mr. Cutler later using it for the same purpose. In 1856 this mill was burned. The present grist mill was run for several years by P. J. Lewis and is now owned and operated by Seymour & Macdonald.



*Carter Mill, South Lancaster — "Wading Place" of Early Settlers*

**The Peter Thurston House**, South Lancaster. Built in 1784 by Peter Thurston, Jr., who about that time bought a portion of his father's farm and began its erection. The land on this corner and all over the interval to the Clinton line and up the Sterling road a little beyond the house of Mr. Parker constituted the original farm. There have been three or four houses near the site of the present one, the last one (the Flagg house) having been burned several years ago. The Thurston house is now owned by Mr. W. C. Young of Worcester. It has been occupied by the builder, his great-grandfather, and his daughter, Mrs. Sawyer, who married Eben Sawyer, great-grandson of Hannah Dustin of Indian fame, and her sister, Miss Thurston, and Mr. Young's aunt, Mrs. Stimson, passing from them into the hands of his mother, Mrs. Young, daughter of Mrs. Sawyer, and at her death coming into Mr. Young's possession, the land never having passed out of the family in over 200 years.



The Cutler House was one of several ancient farmhouses on the George Hill range of house lots which were standing a few years ago, but have since been torn down. This place was in the possession of the Cutler family for many years, and in this old farmhouse thirteen children of the family were raised, twelve of whom are now living. It was also the home of the Lincolns, another large family, for a long time before.





The Phelps House. Near Lane's crossing, on the Harvard road, or "Phelps street," as it was sometimes called, because several families of that name lived on the road from the corner to Ponikin Hill. This farmhouse, although not as old as some others in town, has the appearance of considerable age, by reason of the exterior being plastered in imitation of granite and having become weather-beaten and discolored by exposure to the elements.

William Phelps, the last of the name to occupy the house, lived to be over ninety years old. He was born there in 1805, and his father had lived there many years before him.

The photograph of this old homestead and the accompanying snap-shot of the "Old Oaken Bucket" and typical New England well-sweep were taken by Mr. Edmund G. Davis, curator of the Leominster museum, on one of the landscape trips which he occasionally takes by way of recreation.



The "Great Elm." Many of the elms on the streets and in the intervals are large and symmetrical, but the queen of all is the elm in Lover's Lane, on the east side of the main Nashua River below the Center Bridge. It is twenty-five feet in diameter five feet from the ground, ninety-five feet in height, with one hundred and fifteen feet spread of branches, and is supposed to be the largest elm in New England.



The "Carter Oak." One of the largest red oaks in Massachusetts. Sixteen feet in circumference five feet from the ground. On the south side of the highway known as the "Back Road," about twenty rods north of the Valley Farm house and greenhouses of Nathaniel Thayer.



The "Beaman Oak." One of the largest white oak trees in Massachusetts. Circumference at base twenty-nine feet. Five feet above, eighteen feet, five inches. Height seventy-eight feet. Spread of branches seventy-five feet. Between the North Village and Lane's Crossing. Gamaliel Beaman settled here in 1659.



**Memorial Hall Library Building.** Erected as a monument to those men who gave their lives for their country during the Rebellion. This edifice contains shelving for over 30,000 volumes, and a reading room in which is a tablet bearing the names of the town's soldiers who died in the war. A fire-proof room is used by the town officers, and contains the town records. The upper hall is devoted to the natural history collection, historical relics, portraits of Lancaster celebrities, etc.

**The Rowlandson "Locker."** This historical relic, according to well authenticated tradition, was brought from England about 1638 by John and Joanne White, the parents of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson. It was probably left in Wenham with his daughter Joanna or son Thomas. When Mary (their sister Mrs. Rowlandson) after her captivity set up housekeeping with bare walls in Boston, there is no doubt that they gave her this piece of furniture. It remained in the possession of her descendants for several generations. In 1876 it was purchased by the Lancaster town library with money bequeathed by Miss Mary Whitney, a native of Lancaster, and added to their collection of historical relics.



**The Capt. John White House.** Residence of Mr. Nathaniel C. Hawkins. Built about 1707-10 on land granted to Captain John's grandfather, John White the emigrant, who owned land on both sides of the road, his homestead being the Edward Houghton place opposite. This homestead descended from father to son unto the sixth generation, passing out of the name by the death of Dea. Samuel F. White in 1843, his widow marrying Dea. Peter Osgood and Edward Houghton marrying Dea. Osgood's daughter. The original house was burned in 1676 when Mr. White's daughter, Mrs. Kerley, was killed, and her sisters, Mrs. Rowlandson and Mrs. Divoll, captured by the Indians; and again in 1816. The present house, where Mr. Houghton now resides, was built by Dea. Samuel F. White. The Capt. John White house was evidently built for a garrison house, the lower story very low studded and the second story nine feet in the clear. The well was in the cellar for convenience in case of siege.





*Sprague Bridge and the "Shallows." "Where the herds do cross."*



*The "Waiting Place" or "Shadows" Side of the First Cort Bridge, built in 1658*



*South Lancaster. Street View.*



*The Old Town Pond, North Lancaster.*



*Main Street, Lancaster Center.*



*Parker's Pond, on the George A. Parker Estate.*



Southwestern View of the Central Part of Lancaster, 1839. From "Barber's Historical Collections." Sketched from the road a few rods north of the Middle Cemetery. The prominent building in the center is the Unitarian church. The building with a small spire to the right is the Academy. The Lancaster House, with a turret, is seen to the left of the church. The brick house and some other buildings opposite and to the left of the hotel, were for many years the location of an extensive business in book publishing, engraving on wood, copper and steel, map printing and coloring, book-binding, stereotyping, lithographing, etc., employing nearly a hundred hands.

The bridge seen below the meeting-house is that on which the principal road crosses the Nashua. The Rowlandson garrison was located on the spot where the cattle are seen feeding. The view of Lancaster Center, on the opposite page, was photographed from George Hill in 1904.





**The Slate Quarry.** The old slate quarry, in the northeastern part of the town, near Cumbury Pond, was discovered by Gershom Flagg, a wealthy Boston architect and contractor, who owned a farm in Lancaster. He began quarrying slate soon after 1750. Miss Hannah Flagg Gould, the poet, a grand-daughter of Gershom Flagg, wrote long afterward in a poem referring to her childish memories of Lancaster:

"I still hear rehearsed the old tale of the quarry,  
Of far-carried slate which my grandfather  
found."

With the subject a tragic incident is connected. A nephew of Mr. Flagg, also named Gershom, who had married a Lancaster girl,

Mary Willard, was killed by a fall in 1758, at the age of twenty-eight, while slating a house in Boston. On Mr. Flagg's death in 1771, his Lancaster property went to his son Gershom, who sold the quarry in 1789 to Joseph Wales. In 1793, the Rev. Peter Whitney wrote of it in "The History of the County of Worcester," as "the fine and valuable, and, perhaps, inexhaustible slate pit, furnishing slates and tile for the roofs of houses, and most excellent stones for tombs and graves." "No slates equal to these," continues Whitney, "have yet been discovered on the Continent. Great numbers are used in Boston every season. They are also exported to Virginia, to New York, to Hartford in Connecticut, etc." The quarry was still worked by Mr. Wales, and afterwards by Leonard Farwell, in the first decade of the nineteenth century, but in 1826 Joseph Willard ("Topographical and Historical Sketches of the Town of Lancaster") says it had not then been used for many years, on account of the expense of transportation, and that water stood deep in the pit. In 1879 a company was formed to revive this ancient Lancaster industry, but the enterprise was given up after two or three years. More recently slate from the old quarry has been ground as material for pressed brick by a plant for the purpose at Still River, but was found to be rather too hard to use to advantage in this way.



*The "Old Brick Tavern."*



*Herd of Jerseys.*



*The Center Bridge, over the main Nashua River, just below the "Meeting of the Waters."*



*River near Woodruff Bridge.*



*White Birch Road. Deershorn District.*



*North Branch of the Nashua from Ponikin Bridge.*



*Ponikin Bridge, North Lancaster.*



*"Seven Bridge Road."*



*View on the South Branch of the Nashua.*



*"Meeting of the Waters," morning.*



*"Meeting of the Waters," evening.*



*"Seven Bridge Road."*









